

Context Sensitive Design in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Maintenance and Operations Issues



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

SR 14 Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area



Background

- 1986 – U.S. Congress passed the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act and the Columbia River Gorge Commission is formed.
- 1992 – The Columbia River Gorge Commission and the U.S. Forest Service publish the “**Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.**”
- 1993 – **Memorandum of Understanding** to guide the development of the “SR 14 Corridor Strategy and Action Plan” is signed by the Steering Committee.

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- 1993-1997 – Steering Committee members meet monthly to develop what becomes the **“State Route 14 Corridor Management Plan”**
- July 1997 – Final draft of the “SR 14 Corridor Management Plan” released

Plan Components

- SR 14 Route Development Plan
- SR 14 Corridor Strategy and Action Plan
- SR 14 Supplemental Highway Design Guidelines

Maintenance & Operations

- Since the CMP was approved, WSDOT's maintenance and operations offices in the Gorge have changed the way they do business on SR 14
 - Guardrail
 - Signage
 - Vegetation removal
 - Rock/slope cuts
 - Unstable slope/rockfall mitigation

Guardrail





Signs





Barrier/Safety Walls











Unstable Slopes











Unstable Slopes Mitigation

- 30 locations in Skamania & Klickitat Counties
- WSDOT developed conceptual options for the project.
- Interdisciplinary Team reviewed options and assessed impact
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - The Columbia River Gorge Commission
 - WSDOT

Unstable Slopes Mitigation

- Interdisciplinary Team achieves consensus on all 30 potential highway improvements
- Currently developing Route Development Plan (Environmental Assessment)
 - Public Involvement
 - Environmental Review
 - Incorporate recommendations from Regional Transportation & State System Plan

Mitigation Examples













